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(54) Title: FOAMABLE POLYMERIC COMPOSITIONS AND ARTICLES CONTAINING FOAMED COMPOSITIONS

(57) Abstract: Foamable compositions which are usable for the manufacture of foamed, flexible, heat resistant, thermoplastic elastomeric articles, and which comprise at least: (a) 100 parts by weight of one or more selectively hydrogenated block copolymers, having at least two resinous blocks A of non-hydrogenated predominantly polymerized monovinyl arene, and a selectively hydrogenated elastomeric block B, wherein said block B prior to hydrogenation being predominantly a polymerized conjugated diene or dienes, said block copolymer having a total apparent molecular weight of at least 250 kg/mole, and containing polymerized monovinyl arene blocks of true molecular weight of at least 18 kg/mole, (b) 5 to 50, preferably from 15 to 40 parts by weight of one or more selectively hydrogenated block copolymers having at least two resinous blocks A' of non hydrogenated predominantly polymerized monovinyl arene, and an selectively hydrogenated elastomeric block B', wherein said block B' prior to hydrogenation has been derived from a polymerized conjugated diene or dienes as a major component which may be mixed with minor proportions of other copolymers (e.g. vinyl aromatic) i.e.  $\leq 25$  wt%, and said block copolymer having a total apparent molecular weight in the range of from 50,000 to 180,000, while the resinous blocks A' shown an true molecular weight in the range of from 3 to 20 kg/mole and preferably from 5 to 15 kg/mole, (c) from 25 to 80 parts by weight of a linear crystalline polymer comprising propylene as major component, with a Vicat softening temperature in the range of from 130°C to 180°C and a MFR in the range of from 0.5 to 30 dg/min and a polydispersity index of at least 4.5, (d) from 100 to 250 parts by weight of a softener compatible with blocks B and B', (e) from 0.01 to 3 wt%, relative to the weight of the primary component s (a) up to (e) of a solid chemical nucleating agent of the endothermic group in combination with a blowing agent, and optionally (f) one or more secondary components selected from PPO and/or any resins compatible with block copolymer component (a), antioxidants, UV-stabilizers, flame retardants, surface modifying agents and inorganic fillers and foamed articles derived from said compositions.

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